

INFORMATION FOR HEALTH FACILITIES

The Board of Podiatric Medicine (BPM) - BPM is the unit of the Medical Board of California (MBC) that licenses Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs) under the [State Medical Practice Act](#). There are approximately 1,900 DPMs practicing in California. The Medical Board takes complaints and conducts investigations for DPM cases just as it does for MDs.

Accreditation - The [Council on Podiatric Medical Education \(CPME\)](#) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for accrediting schools of podiatric medicine. CPME also approves residency programs and CME providers, and recognizes specialty boards. Contact: CPME, 9312 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814. (301) 571-9200.
<http://www.apma.org/cpme/>

Licensure Requirements - Current State law requires: (1) graduation from a BPM-approved podiatric medical school, (2) passing the national boards Parts I, II and III administered by the Chauncey Group International, a subsidiary of the Educational Testing Service, for the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, and (3) completion of at least two years of BPM-approved graduate medical education.

Resident's License - Postgraduate residents must possess a "Resident's License" from BPM. This license limits the resident to participation in a specified training program during a specified one-year period. This training license authorizes the resident to participate fully in rotations as required or approved by CPME and the hospital. Medical residents must always be supervised [§70705, Department of Health Services regulations]. §2483 of the State Medical Practice Act, CPME, and BPM require applicants to be trained comprehensively in medicine. §§ 2475-2476 require that podiatric students and residents be supervised by an MD or DO when the work takes them beyond the scope of their eventual medical specialty.

Scope of Practice - DPMs diagnose and treat medical conditions of the foot, ankle and related structures (including the tendons that insert into the foot and the nonsurgical treatment of the muscles and tendons of the leg). In addition to performing foot and ankle surgeries, DPMs are licensed to assist MDs and DOs in any surgery--podiatric or non-podiatric.

DPMs, many of whom develop expertise in the care and preservation of the diabetic foot, may perform partial amputations of the foot as far as proximal with the Chopart's joint. They order and administer anesthesia and sedatives, as indicated. *Administration* of general anesthesia, however, may only be performed by an anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA).

Note: Some DPMs licensed prior to 1984 have not met BPM's licensure requirements for ankle surgery, amputation, and surgical assistance. They may assist other DPM surgeons in any podiatric procedure and may assist MDs/DOs as non-licensed operating room technicians do in non-podiatric surgeries. Facilities may [verify license status online](http://www.bpm.ca.gov) [www.bpm.ca.gov] by clicking on the *Quick Hit for License Verification*. Most DPMs are in fact "ankle licensed." This will be indicated by "License or Registration Class: **ANK**", and authorizes the full DPM medical scope.

BPM Information & Enforcement Action

- (916) 263-2647--BPM HQ's
- (916) 263-2650-- BPM's Executive Officer (direct line--Jim Rathlesberger, MPA)
- 1-800-MED-BDCA--to file complaints about DPMs or MDs
- (916) 263-2382--[to verify licensure/disciplinary records](#). Online <http://bpm.ca.gov/> by clicking *Quick Hit for License Verification* or [www2.dca.ca.gov/pls/wllpub/wllquery\$.startup]

The [State Office of Administrative Law \(OAL\)](#) upheld the legality of BPM's Regulations to **disclose cases referred to the Attorney General** prior to the filing of an Accusation. For a prompt alert to these enforcement actions, patients and facilities may inspect:
<http://bpm.ca.gov/consqde/agreferrals.htm>